



Rochester Canoe Club

One Design Sailboat Racing
2050 Bay Shore Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14622
Clubhouse Phone: (585) 288-2380
www.rochestercc.org

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Rochester Canoe Club, established in 1881, is an informal family sailing club interested in promoting one-design (**Sunfish, Thistle, JY-15, and Optimist**) racing and sailing. The club is located on the west shore of Irondequoit Bay, and is the oldest sailing organization in Rochester.

RCC is comprised of a diverse group of people (medical personnel, teachers, carpenters, engineers, students, retirees) who share not only a common interest in sailing, but also enjoy the outdoors, picnicking, volleyball and having a good time together.

The success of the club and its programs depends on the joint efforts of the members. Preparation for the sailing season begins in April with a spring “Boats Out Day” during which members open the clubhouse, remove boats from storage, float the docks and clean up the grounds. In late October, a similar workday is scheduled to store boats and ready the club for winter. Between the Spring Banquet and the Fall Awards Banquet, there are additional social functions such as picnics, barbecues, regattas and special parties organized by members. So, everyone helps support the “do it yourself” philosophy and has an opportunity to get involved according to his or her skills and interests.

THE THISTLE: This open cockpit boat is a fully rigged (including spinnaker) 17 foot long sloop normally sailed by a three-person crew. The Thistle has a unique blend of the one-design, high performance racer as well as a family daysailer. Go to www.thistleclass.com for more information.

THE JY-15: This is a 15-foot dinghy sailed by a 2-person crew. It is a one-design boat rigged with two sails, comfortable for adults yet easy for kids to sail competitively. Go to www.jyca.org for more information.

THE SUNFISH: Everyone knows and has probably sailed on a 14 foot Sunfish. This very popular one person racing or daysailing vessel performs well in a fresh breeze or a slight breath of air. Go to www.sunfishclass.org for more information.

The Thistle fleet has a normal season which begins in early May and ends in mid-October. Racing takes place on Sunday afternoons on Irondequoit Bay. Two to three races are usually scheduled each Sunday. The season also includes weekend regattas, which are held throughout the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes region. Thistle skippers are invited to participate in any of these regattas, and RCC usually hosts at least one Thistle regatta each season. RCC owns one Thistle, which could be made available for you to try.

The Sunfish and JY-15 fleet season is similar to that of Thistles with a few exceptions. Sunday afternoon races are sailed on Irondequoit Bay on a separate and shorter course, which often results in 4 to 6 races being scored. In addition to the regular season, many

skippers sail a “Frostbite” series in Sunfish from the end of October until the beginning of December. Sunfish and JY-15 regattas are also held in New York State and adjacent regions. RCC hosts an invitational for each class during the season. RCC owns several Sunfish and one JY-15, which are available for use by prospective members as well as club members.

JUNIOR SAILING: The club owns a number of Optimist Dinghies to promote junior sailing. These dinghies are available for use by children of club members and prospective members at any time throughout the year. Formal learn-to-sail classes are offered during the summer. The Optimist is a safe, dry and simple boat for teaching youngsters (generally ages 7-15) to sail. The 77 lb., blunt-bow dinghy is about eight feet long by four feet wide with a sprite rigged sail only 35 square feet in area. This is the largest IYRU recognized class with 250,000 members.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: RCC encourages ALL prospective members to come down to the club and get acquainted! Apart from regular racing, more “fun” races are often held on Sundays for the Thistles, JY-15’s, Sunfish and Optimists. On Sunday afternoons, you may be able to join the race committee, rescue-boat crews, one of the Thistle skippers or one of the JY-15 skippers to get a feel for what racing is like at the club. After the boats are de-rigged and sails rolled, “happy hour” is followed by a “pot luck” dinner are RCC traditions that afford you an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with the club members.

An application may be obtained from the Membership Chairperson or downloaded from the RCC website. You will need two current RCC members as sponsors in applying for membership. Your sponsoring club member should be able to answer questions, introduce you to other members (and appropriate fleet captain if you have or hope to buy a boat) and generally orient you into the club traditions and activities.

BASIC APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Completed applications are posted by the Membership Chairperson on the club hallway bulletin board 20 days prior to voting. Voting takes place at the next board meeting after the 20-day waiting period. It is expedient for an applicant to provide an individual or family photograph, including names, to post with the application. This helps everyone get acquainted and will be returned to you. The dues structure is listed on the back of each application. Even with mandatory sales tax, RCC membership is a great bargain.

A membership directory is published each spring following the annual dues deadline, and usually is ready for distribution in late May. A copy should be available near the phone in the kitchen. If you have any further questions, please call.

Pat Tompkins (585) 227-0253
Membership Chairperson
Rochester Canoe Club (585) 288-2380 (Clubhouse Phone)